Class: 10th (Ch.4) <u>GENDER, RELIGION & CASTE</u> Pol. Science

Q#1 Mention different aspects of life in which women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India.

Ans. In India, women are discriminated and disadvantaged in the following ways:-

1. Women are not provided adequate education. The literacy rate among women is only 65.46% compared with 82.14% among men. They usually drop out from the educational institutions because their parents prefer to spend their resources for their boy's education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.
2. The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. On an average, an Indian woman works one hour more than an average man every day. Yet much of her work is not paid and therefore often not valued.
3. The equal wages Act provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. However, in almost all areas of work, from sports and cinema, to factories and fields, women are paid less than men, even when both do exactly the same work.
4. In many parts of India, parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born. Such practices have led to a decline in child sex ratio in the country to merely 927 girls per thousand boys. There are reports of various kinds of harassment, exploitation and violence against women.

Q#2 State different forms of communal politics with one example each.

Ans. Communalism can take various forms in politics. Some of these are listed as under:

i) **<u>Communalism in daily beliefs:-</u>** The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions. This is so common that we fail to notice it, even when we believe in it. Religious Groups present in many parts of India are a good example of this.

ii) **<u>Formation of political parties based on religious communities:-</u>** A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religions community. For those belonging to the majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominances. For those belonging to the minority, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit. Separatist leaders and political parties in many parts of India are an example of this.

iii) **<u>Political mobilization on religious lines:-</u>** Political mobilization on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. This involves the use of sacred symbols, religious leaders and emotional appeals in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena. For example, this technique is applied by many politicians to influence voters from the largest religious communities in the country.

iv) **<u>Communal Riots:-</u>** Sometimes communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre. India and Pakistan suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of the partition. The post-independence period has also seen large scale communal violence. The riots in Gujarat in 2002 is an example of this.

Q#3 State how caste inequalities are still continuing in India.

Ans. Caste inequalities have not completely disappeared from contemporary India. Some of the older aspects of caste have persisted. Even today most people marry within their own caste or tribe, even it is legally sanctioned, and they do not like to marry out of their caste. Effects of centuries of advantages and disadvantages of caste continue to be felt today. The caste groups that had access to education under the old system have done very well in acquiring the modern education while those groups that did not have access to education have naturally lagged behind. Consequently, the poor are mostly the low castes while the rich are the high castes, thereby showing that caste inequalities are still continuing in India. Despite constitutional prohibition, untouchability has not ended completely.

Q#4 State two reasons to say that caste alone cannot determine election results in India.

Ans. In modern politics caste alone cannot determine the election results in India because of the following reasons:-

i) No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste. So every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste community to win elections.

ii) These days people belong to different political parties instead of caste. They like to cast their vote to their favourite political party instead of caste. Moreover, the ruling party and the sitting MP or MLA frequently lose elections in our country. It could not have happened if all castes and communities were frozen in their political preferences.

Q#5 What is the states of women's representation in India's legislative bodies?

Ans. In India, the proportion of women in the Legislative bodies has been very low. In this respect, India is among the bottom group of nations in the world. In every election the share of women's winning percentage in Parliament never exceed than 10% and their representation in state assemblies is as low as 5%. In the whole sphere of the world, India is at the bottom of the list in women's representation in legislative assemblies. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the percentage of women in the Indian parliament is around 12%. It still remains far below the global average of around 21%. Even if female heads the government then the cabinet is dominated by males. On the other hand, the situation is different in the case of local government bodies. As one-third of seats in local government bodies is reserved for women. There are more than 10 lakhs elected women representatives in rural and urban local bodies.

Q#6 Mention any two constitutional provisions that make India a secular state.

Ans. The Constitution of India has provided a status of Secular State to the nation due to diversity of religions in it. The two constitutional provisions that make India a secular state are as under:-

i) There is no official religion for the Indian state. Unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, that of Islam in Pakistan and that of Christianity in England, the Indian constitution does not give a special status to any religion.

ii) The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities, the freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion or not to follow any. It also says that government shall not discriminate with any citizen on the basis of his religion. That's why the many key positions of the country, President, Vice President and Prime Minister, are held by the people who belong to minority religion.